



THE HUMANIST SOCIETY OF GAINESVILLE



THE PROMETHEAN HUMANIST

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Dr Pepper edits God out of Pledge of Allegiance

The soft-drink company has designed a new patriotic can featuring the Statue of Liberty. Better yet, they have printed The Pledge of Allegiance, leaving out the phrase, "under God." It reads, "One Nation ... Indivisible."

Although some fundamentalists and religious people are upset at the deletion of the words the cans have not seemed to upset many other Dr Pepper consumers. Besides the four complaints from Dubuque, the company has fielded 200 other negative comments nationwide about the new design, according to Michael Martin, director of corporate communications for the Plano, Texas-based company. Since it was introduced in mid-November, 18 million of the cans in question have been produced for Dr Pepper.

"There is a fairly limited area for graphics on a standard can after the required information is included. We think we have a message that is resoundingly patriotic, a non-denominational, bipartisan message that we

are a united nation," Martin said of the design suggested by one of the firm's bottlers.

Mayor Officially Exorcises Satan from Florida Town

Carolyn Risher, the mayor of Inglis, Florida, signed and sealed an official government proclamation banishing Satan from the town of Inglis and placed copies in hollowed out posts at entrances to the town. This method of banishing "evil" harkens back to the days of burning effigies of enemies, placing fetishes in homes, building bonfires to ward off demons, and other practices popular in the Dark Ages.

In addition to noting her elective right to take the "town back for the Kingdom of God," mayor Risher mentions that she was "appointed by God to this position of leadership." Risher was very thorough in her banishment of evil from the town, commanding "all satanic and demonic forces to cease their activities and depart the town of Inglis."

MEETING: 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 12, 2002

An Evolutionary View of Human Mating Behavior

Laura Sirot and Scot Duncan

Department of Zoology, University of Florida

The talk will cover the latest in this exceedingly interesting field, and also talk about abuses of the evolutionary perspective with regards to justifying some human behaviors.

Beliefs about what occurs in the sex lives of non-human organisms are often used to form generalizations about what behaviors are natural and unnatural or about the evolution of human behaviors. These generalizations often are used, in turn, to justify either our own actions or pass judgement on the actions of others. But, do people really have enough knowledge of living systems to make these determinations? And, what are the validity and value of comparing humans with other organisms?

◆ This month's meeting will be held in the Board Room at SFCC Downtown Campus ◆



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This proclamation raises many questions. When Risher declared that Satan was “powerless, no longer ruling over, nor influencing, our citizens” did she believe that excluded Inglis from animosity, hate, crime, and confusion?

Will she next announce the dismantling of local police and emergency services? Humanists in Inglis will await their tax refunds.

Executive Director of the American Humanist Association, Tony Hileman, feels slighted by Risher’s recent comment defending her proclamation “You’re either with God or against Him.” “Such a statement,” Hileman says, “does not respect the rights of the 30 million Americans, some of whom reside in Inglis, who do not identify with a particular religion. After all, Humanists and others who do not believe in a higher power are neither with God nor against Him or Her.”

The American Jewish Congress, alarmed at the amount of Christian paraphernalia openly circulating among state lawmakers, wants a public acknowledgment from the Legislature recognizing religious freedom.

“We are advocates of a high wall of separation between church and state so as to assure equality for all religions,” said Paul D. Breitner, president of the group’s southeast regional chapter.

“What we have become concerned about is this Legislature’s preoccupation with school prayer and religious issues ... and attempting to use the Legislature as a bully pulpit for a majority religion.”

This week, as lawmakers returned to Tallahassee for the 2002 session, they were treated to artwork and baked goods with Christian themes.

Reprints of a patriotic painting, for example, included a message from the artist describing the color red in the American flag as representing “the cleansing blood of Christ, for this newborn Christian country.” It was given to each House member by Rep. Jeff Kottkamp, R-Cape Coral.

Kottkamp said Thursday that the artwork was painted by a constituent, Kern Baxter, who asked him to give a reprint to each state representative.

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